

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02601 181455Z

44

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 038569

R 181430Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8412

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

USUN NEW YORK 285

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2601

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RQ, TD

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO

1. DURING DISCUSSION PRIMARILY DEVEOTED TO LAW OF THE SEA
OCT 17 (SEE POS 2600), I RAISED WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME
MINISTER DR. ERIC WILLIAMS THE SUBJECT OF PUERTO RICO.

2. WILLIAMS WAS QUITE FIRM IN STATING THAT GOTTE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE
IN CUBAN EFFORT TO LOBBY FOR PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT.
WHILE HE SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY FELT PUERTO RICO SHOULD
CHOOSE THE PATH OF INDEPENDENCE FROM USG, HE FULLY RECOGNIZED
THAT 95 PER CENT OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE DISAGREED WITH HIM AND
THAT THEIR WILL SHOULD BE RESPECTED. PRIME MINISTER RECOUNTED
HIS LONG FRIENDSHIP AND ASSOCIATION WITH MUÑOZ MARÍN, WITH
WHOSE POLITICAL CHOICE FOR PUERTO RICO HE NEVERTHELESS DISAGREED.
WHEN I ASKED HIS VIEWS AS TO THE FUTURE EVOLUTION OF PUERTO
RICAN DESIRES AND WHETHER HE FORESAW RAPID CHANGE IN PUBLIC
OPINION ON WHICH EXTERNAL CUBAN CAMPAIGN COULD BE BUILT, WILLIAMS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 02601 181455Z

SAID HIS JUDGMENT AS LONG STUDENT OF PUERTO RICAN AFFAIRS WAS THAT

BENEFICIARIES OF OPERATION BOOTSTRAP FORMED BACKBONE OF PUERTO RICAN SOCIETY AND THAT IT WAS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THERE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT OF OPINION TOWARD UNLOOSING THE TIES WITH USG IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE ASSURED ME THAT GOTT WOULD MAKE NO SUCH ASSUMPTION AND WAS CLEARLY AWARE OF OVERWHELMING CHOICE OF PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE EVEN IF IT DID NOT NECESSARILY AGREE.

3 I THEN TRVD TO FOCUS PRIME MINISTER ON QUESTION OF GOTT VOTING IN SUCH FORA AS COMMITTEE OF 24, WHERE GOTT ABSTENTION IN AUGUST HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR US TO UNDERSTAND. BEFORE I COULD OBTAIN CLEAR RESPONSE, HOWEVER, WE WERE INTERRUPTED BY SOME OF OUR JAPANESE HOSTS AND I WAS ABLE ESSENTIALLY ONLY TO REMIND HIM OF OUR CONCERN.

4. COMMENT: IT IS REASSURING TO HAVE THIS FORTHRIGHT STATEMENT OF WILLIAMS' VIEWS AND TO KNOW THAT WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SURPRISED BY AN OUTRIGHT HOSTILE INITIATIVE ON PUERTO RICO. I AM STILL LESS SANGUINE HOWEVER, THAT WE CAN PERSUADE WILLIAMS NOT TO ABSTAIN ON VOTES IN UN FORA, BUT WE HAVE SOME BASIS TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE. THE NEXT TIME I AM ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS SUBJECT WITH WILLIAMS, I PLAN TO SUGGEST THAT HE MIGHT USEFULLY FIND AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PUBLIC HIS CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF PUERTO RICAN POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN ORDER TO COUNTER IMPRESSION EMERGING IN LOCAL PRESS HERE FROM PROPAGANDA OF PR SOCIALIST PARTY, CUBANS, AND OTHERS THAT PUERTO RICANS ARE CRYING FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM IMPERIALIST MASTERS.

RICH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PORTO02601
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750362-0821
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751041/aaaabkfn.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' VIEWS ON PUERTO RICO
TAGS: PFOR, RQ, TD, US, (WILLIAMS, ERIC E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006